Shatabdi service between Patna and Kolkata

*411. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to link Patna with Kolkata by Shatabdi train, in the wake of heavy traffic on this route;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when such train on the above route would be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Patna is connected to Kolkata by 14 pairs of Mail/Express trains including 7 pairs of daily trains besides 2305/2306 Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Express which are considered adequate for present level of traffic between two stations. Introduction of a Shatabdi Express between the two cities is not feasible due to operational and resource constraints including severe line capacity constraints and terminal constraints.

Literacy among Tribals/SCs/STs etc. in Assam

*412. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 293, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd February, 2001 and state:

(a) the details of literacy rate among tribal and hilly people, STs, SCs and women in Assam; and

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to remove illiteracy from the State?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The literacy rate of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women in the State of Assam was 53.94%, 49.16% and 43.03% respectively, as per 1991 Census. As per the NSSO 53rd Round Survey (1997) the male